

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-16, 18-23, 25-29, 31-34 and 36-40 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 11, 16, 20, 23, 29, 34 and 38 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gasser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,224,163) in view of Chang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,953) and Bowman-Amuah (U.S. Patent No. 6,601,192).

On page 4, the Office Action states that:

Gasser and Chang fail to explicitly disclose Applicant's newly added limitation wherein said generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential. Bowman-Amuah discloses a report architecture within environment services supports the generation and delivery of reports (see., abstract, col 1-col 78).

Applicants submit that Bowman-Amuah neither describes nor would have made obvious "generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate," as recited in claim 1.

In this regard, columns 1 through 78 of Bowman-Amuah, as cited in the Office Action, provide a general description of an architectural framework – a "conceptual structure and overall logical organization of a computer or computer-based system from the point of view of its use or design" (column 18, lines 10-13). Bowman-Amuah describes an architectural framework called "Netcentric Computing," which is an evolution from traditional client/server computing to application, end-user based computing. As the reference describes, Netcentric Computing

expands the reach of computing both within and outside the enterprise. Netcentric enables sharing of data and content between individuals and applications. These applications provide capabilities to publish, interact or transact. Netcentric represents an evolution of Client/Server which may utilize internet technologies to connect employees, customers, and business partners (column 32, lines 35-44).

Columns 1 through 78, and subsequent columns, describe general implementation and product considerations for Netcentric Computing. For example, Bowman-Amuah suggests the possibility of implementing Netcentric on a Microsoft Windows machine. In another example, the reference considers using HTML, VRML together with Javascript. Throughout the

considerations, Bowman-Amuah's discussion is on a general level and makes no mention or suggestion of "generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate," as recited in claim 1.

Applicants now turn to the abstract, also cited in the Office Action, which states:

A system and method are provided for testing successfulness of an operation having pre-conditions and post-conditions that must be satisfied for the operation to be successful. Two types of assertion classes are provided, where one of the of the assertion classes implements assertion-checking logic and the other assertion class implements only null operations, and one of the assertion classes is selected to be raised. A first assertion is raised asserting a pre-condition that must evaluate to true if the operation is successful. The operation is then executed. A second assertion is raised asserting a post-condition that must evaluate to true if the operation is successful. An error message is outputted upon failure of at least one of the assertions, where the failed assertion implements assertion-checking logic.

In sum, Bowman-Amuah requires testing successfulness of an operation having pre-conditions and post-conditions using assertion classes (see also claims 1, 6 and 11 of Bowman-Amuah). Optionally, "an error handler may be provided for detecting a failure of the assertion of one of the conditions and shutting down a system running the operation upon the detection of the failure" (column 266, lines 60-63).

As best understood by Applicants, even assuming that the "error handler" is a verification service" and an "assertion" can be read as a "delegation credential," neither of which Applicants concede, Bowman-Amuah neither describes nor would have made obvious "generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate," as recited in claim 1. There is no mention that the function of the error handler includes generating a report, let alone a report regarding the usage of a delegation credential by a delegate.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over Gasser in view of Chang and Bowman-Amuah.

Independent claims 11, 23 and 29 contain features that are similar to those of claim 1, i.e., generating a report via the verification service regarding usage of the delegation credential by the delegate. Applicants submit that claims 11, 23 and 29, and their respective dependent claims, are allowable over the references for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicants now address claim 16, which was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the same references.

As previously argued by Applicants in the Reply to Office Action of September 28, 2004 and Reply to Final Office Action of February 17, 2004, the Gasser and Chang references, when taken alone or in combination, neither describe nor would have made obvious receiving a confirmation code from a delegate, which is generated by a Web site visited by the delegate, and using the confirmation code to identify the delegate. Applicants now submit that Bowman-Amuah also suffers from this deficiency. This feature is neither addressed in the present Office Action nor found in the cited art. If the Examiner persists in his rejection, he is respectfully requested to cite a reference showing this feature. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 16 and its dependent claims are allowable over Gasser in view of Chang and Bowman-Amuah.

Independent claims 20, 34 and 38 contain features that are similar to those of claim 16, i.e., receiving a confirmation code from a delegate, which is generated by a Web site visited by the delegate, and using the confirmation code to identify the delegate. Applicants submit that claims 20, 34 and 38, and their respective dependent claims, are allowable over the references for at least the same reasons that claim 16 is allowable.

Finally, Applicants also note 37 C.F.R. 1.104(c)(2), which states (emphasis added):

In rejecting the claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. **When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified.**

Applicants respectfully request that if the rejection over Gasser in view of Chang and Bowman-Amuah is to be maintained, that the Office Action designate particular part(s) of Bowman-Amuah relied on and clearly explain their pertinence. Although the abstract and columns 1 through 78 have been identified in the Office Action, the pertinence of these passages to the claim limitations has not been clearly explained. The Examiner is also respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss the matter.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. The absence, however, of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been addressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

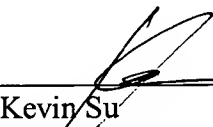
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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